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WEIRD

AN EXPLOSION OF LOATHSOME HORROR

CAVE OF VAMPIRES

THE FLESH DRIPPING THING ROSE FROM THE

OPEN GRAVE

PLUS

House of MONSTERS

THE EVIL CAT

THE AWESOME

THING

MONSTER

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8 MM MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR

COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE

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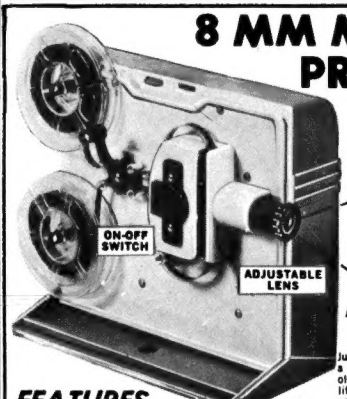
• COMPLETE WITH SCREEN



FEATURES

- Sturdy construction
- Precision ground and polished lenses
- Complete with demountable theatre screen
- Projects both color and black & white 8 MM movie film

Here is a precision - engineered projector sturdily built for long use yet reasonably priced so that everyone can enjoy the thrills of home movies or standard 8mm commercial films. The double lens system and smooth operation give amazing performance. Comes complete with carrying case and its own portable silvery viewing screen. Battery operated to eliminate electric outlets or a clumsy cord. This quick focusing automatic projector shows 8mm color or black & white film. Stop to enjoy a particular frame or speed up the action for special enjoyment. (Batteries not included,)

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HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS Dept. 472MP68
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the 8mm Portable Projector together with one set of Stereo Specs. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return it after 10 days trial for refund of purchase price.

☐ I enclose $9.98 (please add 98c shipping charges).

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and SILENCER

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- 20 best KARATE Blows and Chops
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FREE Karate Practice and Nerve Center Chart

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only **$3.95**

PELLET FIRING 22 CAL. SNUB-NOSED REVOLVER

FREE: Targets and 50 reuseable pellets

This hard hitting target pistol looks and feels like the famous snub nosed revolver in use by most detectives. The cylinder swings out to take eight 22 caliber pellets and each revolver comes with its own FREE supply of targets and 50 rounds of reuseable pellets. Only $3.95 plus 50¢ for postage and handling. Your money promptly refunded if you're not completely satisfied. Not sold in New York City.

Honor House Dept. 472DR68 **Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563**

WEIRD

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...A CEMETARY BECAME THE

CAVE OF VAMPIRES

THERE IS A RUSSIAN PROVERB THAT SAYS: HISTORY FLOWS FORWARD ON RIVERS OF BLOOD... I, IVAN PETROFF, SECURITY OFFICER, STATIONED IN HUNGARY, KNOW WELL THE TRUTH OF THAT PROVERB...

AT 11:08 A.M. ON THE 13TH OF APRIL, 1953, I AND COLONEL BERODITCH FIRST ENTERED THE TOWN OF MAROS IN NORTHERN HUNGARY...

I ASSUME OUR MISSION HERE IS THE USUAL ONE, COMRADE COLONEL?

DA! THE NATIVES HERE HAVE NOT BEEN MEETING THE WORK QUOTAS SET FOR THEM IN MOSCOW!

IN EVERY TOWN THERE ARE INFORMERS...

OUT WITH IT, DOG! TELL US THE TRUTH! WHO IS SABOTAGING THE WORK PROGRAM?

Y-YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! W-WHAT HAS HAPPENED, IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL...

NOTHING IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL!
PLEASE...(SOB...) WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
THE PEOPLE OF MAROS ARE TOO WEAK TO WORK! FEAR HAS DRAINED THEIR STRENGTH...TH-THERE ARE VAMPIRES IN THE VALLEY!
WHILE THE BUTT OF MY PISTOL PAID THE INFORMER FOR TRYING TO PALM OFF BOURGEOIS SUPERSTITIONS ON US, THE COLONEL PUT A CALL THRU TO BUDAPEST!
BERODITCH SPEAKING! I WANT A FULL STRENGTH BATTALION DISPATCHED TO MAROS AT ONCE!
SHORTLY, THE REQUEST WAS FULFILLED AND...
A-11
REPORTING AS ORDERED, SIR!
GOOD! I MUST RETURN TO BUDAPEST! LT. PETROFF WILL REMAIN HERE! ONCE YOU FIND THE SABATEURS, SHOW THEM NO MERCY!
THE REGULAR NUMBER OF HOSTAGES WERE PICKED UP.. SENTRIES WERE POSTED AT NIGHT... AN HOUR LATER, I WAS ENTERING THE BILLET I HAD CHOSEN FOR MYSELF!
WE ARE HONORED, LIEUTENANT! WE HOPE YOUR STAY WILL BE A PLEASANT ONE!
I HAVE NOT COME FOR PLEASURE, FOOL! I AM HERE TO-- W-WHAT IS THAT?

IT CAME SWOOPING DOWN AT ME FROM THE SHADOWS...
...STINKING OF DRIED BLOOD AND DEATH!
I FLUNG UP MY HAND... I CLOSED MY EYES... BUT I COULD STILL HEAR THE WHIRRING...
...THEN THE WHIRRING OF THE LEATHERY WINGS STOPPED...
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, LIEUTENANT! HER NAME IS LISE!
TH-THE BAT...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BAT?
BAT...? WE DO NOT HAVE ANY BATS IN OUR HOUSE, DO WE, FATHER?
MY NERVES WERE SHAKEN! I WENT TO BED SHORTLY AFTERWARD, BUT WITH SLEEP CAME A HORRIBLE DREAM...
I FORCED MY EYES OPEN! I DRESSED AS FAST AS I COULD AND RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE!
ALL THOSE LIES ABOUT VAMPIRES... I MUST WASH THEM OUT OF MY MIND! AH-- I SEE THE BATTALION COMMANDER HAS POSTED THE SENTRIES AS I INSTRUCTED!
BUT THEN...
I-I MUST BE DREAMING AGAIN!

AT LAST I FORCED MYSELF TO MOVE...
I WASN'T DREAMING...THERE ARE VAMPIRES IN MAROS!
LATER...
WELL, LT. PETROFF... DO YOU HAVE ANY THEORIES ABOUT THE MURDER OF OUR SENTRY?
TO TELL WHAT I SAW WOULD BE TO SIGN MY OWN DEATH WARRANT! THE PARTY LINE IS THAT THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS VAMPIRES...
NOW I WAS RETURNING TO MY BILLET...
I MUST SETTLE THIS MATTER MYSELF! I MUST LIQUIDATE ALL THE VAMPIRES PERSONALLY!
OLD MAN, WHERE IS YOUR DAUGHTER?
AFTER YOU WENT TO SLEEP, SIR... SHE LEFT FOR BUDAPEST! SHE WILL BE BACK IN A WEEK!
I MUST HANDLE THIS CAREFULLY! THE OLD MAN APPEARS STRONG-WILLED...THE GIRL WILL BE EASIER TO HANDLE!
THE SECOND SHE RETURNS, OLD MAN... NOTIFY ME!
SO THEN I WAITED, FOR FIVE SLOW-MOVING DAYS I WAITED FOR LISE TO RETURN FROM BUDAPEST...
BUT ON THE SIXTH NIGHT... ANOTHER OF OUR SENTRIES WAS KILLED!
AAAAAGH!

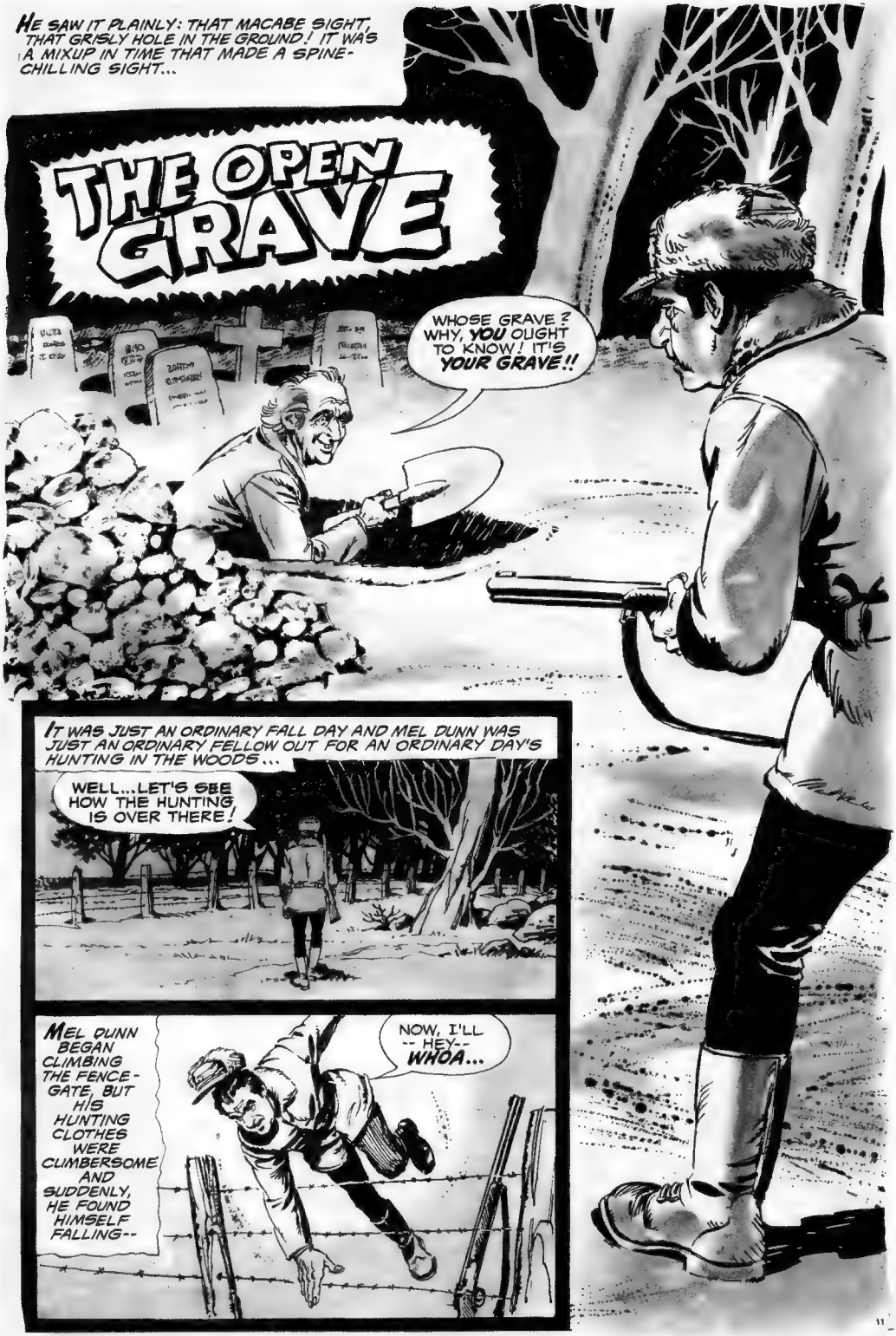
THE BATTALION COMMANDER WAS IN PANIC! WITHOUT CONSULTING ME, HE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO MOSCOW! THE NEXT MORNING, AN N.K.D. MAN FLEW IN...
WHERE IS THE SECURITY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO YOU BY BERODITCH?
MALENSKI!
OH, IT'S YOU! QUICK, HANDSOME ONE, GIVE ME A COMPLETE REPORT ON YOUR COURSE OF ACTION IN THIS CASE...
MALENSKI AND I HAD BEEN FOUNDLINGS IN THE SAME MOSCOW ORPHANAGE! WE HAD ALWAYS HATED EACH OTHER! IF MALENSKI EVER FOUND OUT I HAD BEEN CONCEALING INFORMATION, HE WOULD TAKE PLEASURE IN SHOOTING ME HIMSELF!
HAVE YOU NO TONGUE, PETROFF? SPEAK!

AFTER I HAD STAMMERED MY REPORT...
LIEUTENANT, YOU TOLD ME TO NOTIFY YOU THE SECOND LISE RETURNED...
GOOD... CLEAR OUT THE HOUSE! I'LL QUESTION HER ALONE!
WITHIN BRIEF MINUTES...
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME HOW TO ROUND UP ALL THE VAMPIRES SO THAT I CAN LIQUIDATE THEM, THIS SPIKE WILL ENTER YOUR HEART!

NO... PLEASE... PUT THE SPIKE DOWN! I'LL TELL YOU... (SOB)... WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW! TONIGHT... AFTER DUSK... IN THE CEMETERY... THE VAMPIRES WILL MEET...
IT WAS AFTER DUSK NOW! LISE WAS BOUND SECURELY ON HER BED... AND I, ARMED WITH THE SPIKE WAS CREEPING STEALTHILY TOWARD THE CEMETERY...

JUST THEN...
AN AMBUSH!
FOOL... WE WERE HIDING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW WHILE YOU WERE QUESTIONING LISE!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
THEY ANSWERED BY CLOSING IN! I SWUNG BLINDLY, TRYING TO BREAK THRU! A SET OF FANGS RAKED MY FOREARM!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MALENSKI!
LOOK... A FAT ONE BURSTING WITH BLOOD! LET'S GET HIM!
IVAN... HELP ME!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN... MALENSKI WAS TOO CLEVER TO BE THROWN OFF THE TRACK! HE HAD FOUND OUT ABOUT THE VAMPIRES' MEETING PLACES...
I'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU AGAIN, MALENSKI...
SO MUCH BLOOD... (GASP)... MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER DRUNK BEFORE...
HERE'S MY CHANCE!

THEY WERE TOO BLOATED TO MOVE!
FOR THIS I WILL GET THE ORDER OF THE RED STAR...
NOW TO KILL LISE... THE LAST OF THE VAMPIRES!
I WAS STANDING OVER HER, WHEN A NEARBY CLOCK CHIMED MIDNIGHT!
AND I GASPED WITH HORROR AS I SAW THE BACKS OF MY HANDS GROW SCALY... FELT MY TEETH LENGTHEN AND SHARPEN INTO LOATHSOME FANGS...
YES! AT THE CEMETERY YOU WERE BITTEN... RIGHT? YOUR TAINTED BLOOD HAS BEEN WAITING FOR MIDNIGHT TO EFFECT THE CHANGE! NOW, YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY VAMPIRES IN ALL OF HUNGARY
MONTHS HAVE PASSED! THE NATIVES TAKE HEART AS ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE RED SOLDIERS DIE! WHAT ELSE CAN MOSCOW DO BUT KEEP SENDING IN FULL-BLOODED REPLACEMENTS...?
YES... I, IVAN PETROFF, KNOW WELL, THE TRUTH OF THE PROVERB; HISTORY FLOWS FORWARD ON RIVERS OF BLOOD!
The End


HE SAW IT PLAINLY: THAT MACABE SIGHT, THAT GRISLY HOLE IN THE GROUND! IT WAS A MIXUP IN TIME THAT MADE A SPINE-CHILLING SIGHT...
THE OPEN GRAVE
WHOSE GRAVE? WHY, YOU OUGHT TO KNOW! IT'S YOUR GRAVE!!
IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY FALL DAY AND MEL DUNN WAS JUST AN ORDINARY FELLOW OUT FOR AN ORDINARY DAY'S HUNTING IN THE WOODS...
WELL...LET'S SEE HOW THE HUNTING IS OVER THERE!
MEL DUNN BEGAN CLIMBING THE FENCE-GATE, BUT HIS HUNTING CLOTHES WERE CUMBERSOME AND SUDDENLY, HE FOUND HIMSELF FALLING--
NOW, I'LL -- HEY-- WHOA...

HE FELL HARD; THERE WAS A BRIEF FLASH OF PAIN IN HIS HEAD-- BUT HE SAT UP AND FELT NO BROKEN BONES, NO SPRAINED MUSCLES...
WOW--WHAT A TUMBLE!
HE CONTINUED THE HUNT, WALKING OVER THE ROLLING HILLS, AND THEN...
ONE THING ABOUT THE COUNTRY--EVEN THE GRAVEYARDS ARE ATTRACTIVE!
SOME VAGUE CURIOSITY PROMPTED MEL TO DETOUR THROUGH THE CEMETERY, AND AS HE DREW CLOSE HE SAW A LITTLE MAN DIGGING--A GRAVE...
HI--HELLO, M'FRIEND! HOW'S--GASP--THAT GRAVE! THAT TOMBSTONE! I--I...
EH? WHY--WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISTER?
THAT TOMBSTONE--IT HAS MY NAME ON IT! "MEL DUNN--BORN MAY 10, 1930---DIED NOV. 20, 1971!" BUT--THIS IS NOV. 17!!
ABRUPTLY THE DAY'S PEACE WAS SHATTERED, AND MEL DUNN FOUND HIMSELF GRABBING THE GRAVE-DIGGER...
WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS, OLD MAN? WHO'S BEHIND THIS?
LEMME GO! I ONLY DO WHAT I'M TOLD! YOU GOT QUESTIONS, MISTER, GO UP TO THE CARETAKER'S HOUSE--ON THE HILL!
EH--HE'S LOONEY! HIS GRAVE, HE SAYS! EH--POOR FELLA--CRAZY, PLUMB CRAZY!!
MEL DUNN RACED TO THE CARETAKER'S HOUSE, AND--
CALM YOURSELF! THIS DUNN FELLOW WAS DROWNED FOUR DAYS AGO AND IS TO BE BURIED THIS AFTERNOON! YOU WERE A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE DECEASED?

A CLOSE FRIEND? ME!

HA-HA-HA-HA-- YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!... HA-HA-HA...YEAH... A REAL CLOSE FRIEND--THAT'S ME!... HA-HA-HA--(GASP)...
MY DEAR SIR-- ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? HADN'T YOU BEST SIT DOWN?

HERE-- LOOK OUT! YOU'RE FALLING!

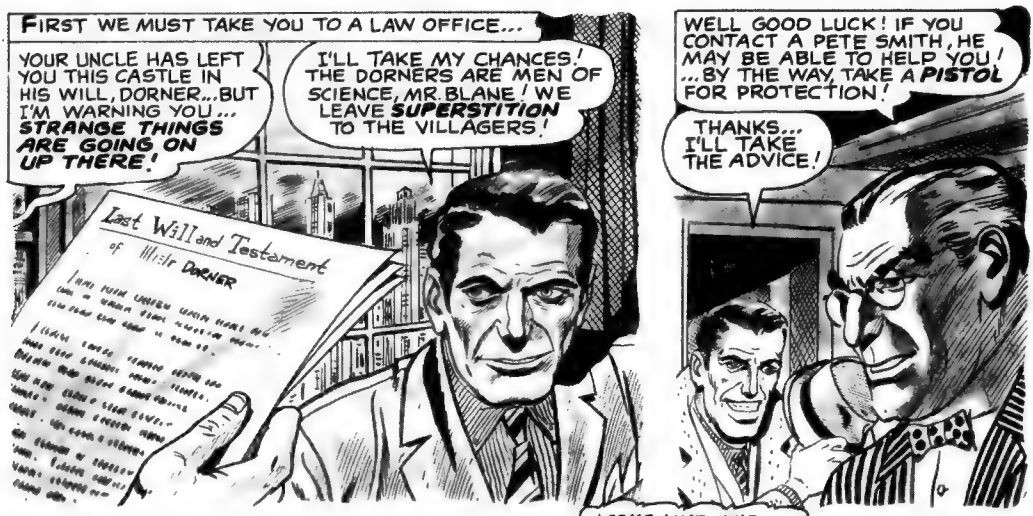
MEL DUNN'S WORLD HAD SUDDENLY DISSOLVED INTO BLACKNESS! BUT THEN THERE WAS LIGHT AND CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNED AND MEL DUNN OPENED HIS EYES...
AHHH...MY HEAD THROBS, MUST HAVE KNOCKED MYSELF OUT--AND HAD A HIDEOUS DREAM! OR WAS IT A DREAM? GOT TO GET TO THAT CEMETERY AND SEE...

NO--HERE'S WHERE HE WAS DIGGING! BUT THERE IS NO GRAVE! SO IT WAS ONLY A DREAM--A HIDEOUS DREAM!

BUT-- WAIT! HOW COULD I HAVE DREAMT ABOUT SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE? DID I SOMEHOW SLIP AHEAD IN TIME-- AND LEARN OF MY OWN DEATH?

IT WAS A VERY SCARED, VERY CONFUSED HUNTER WHO RETURNED TO HIS CAR AND SAT THERE QUIETLY FOR A MOMENT BEFORE DRIVING HOME...
SO-- I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS A DREAM--OR A WEIRD SCRAMBLE OF TIME ITSELF! BUT I CAN TAKE IT AS A WARNING
MAYBE I'M LUCKY--MAYBE BY AVOIDING THIS DEATH I'LL LIVE FOREVER! HA-HA-- THE MAN WHO OUTWITTED FATE! NO WATER FOR ME TODAY! HA-HA-HA-HA...
OH-OH! OCEANSIDE CLIFF COMING UP, I'LL PUT THE BRAKES ON ALL THE WAY FOR THIS ONE! I-- THE BRAKES! THE BRAKES! THEY'RE NOT WORKING!!
I CAN'T STOP!! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL! I--I WON'T MAKE THE CURVE!
YAAAAA! THE DREAM WAS TRUE! "DROWNED"! YAAAAAA!
MEL DUNN
BORN MAY 10 1950
DIED NOV. 20 1971
The End

THE NARROW, WINDING ROAD THAT TWISTS UP PRECIPITOUS CLIFFS TO THE GRIM CASTLE THAT ETCHES THE ANGRY SKY IS CALLED BY THOSE WHO LIVE IN ITS SHADOWS, THE...
HOUSE OF MONSTERS
AT THIS POINT IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE DORNERS BOTH HERE AND ABROAD ARE A FAMILY OF NOTED SCIENTISTS WHO SPECIALIZE IN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA AS WELL AS OTHER UNUSUAL EXPERIMENTS! THE CASTLE ON BLACK MOUNTAIN HAS PASSED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION AND NOW PAUL DORNER IS ABOUT TO INHERIT THE EDIFICE!


FIRST WE MUST TAKE YOU TO A LAW OFFICE...
YOUR UNCLE HAS LEFT YOU THIS CASTLE IN HIS WILL, DORNER...BUT I'M WARNING YOU... STRANGE THINGS ARE GOING ON UP THERE!
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES! THE DORNERS ARE MEN OF SCIENCE, MR. BLANE! WE LEAVE SUPERSTITION TO THE VILLAGERS!
Last Will and Testament of Weir DORNER
WELL GOOD LUCK! IF YOU CONTACT A PETE SMITH, HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU! ...BY THE WAY, TAKE A PISTOL FOR PROTECTION!
THANKS... I'LL TAKE THE ADVICE!

YOUNG DORNER DISMISSED BLANE'S CAUTION AS EYE WASH...AND TO SHOW HIM THAT SCIENTISTS DON'T SCARE EASILY, SET OUT FOR THE BLACK MOUNTAINS THAT AFTERNOON...
UNTIL FINALLY, IN A TAVERN IN THE TOWN OVER-SHADOWED BY THE MYSTERIOUS CASTLE...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OLD DORNER CASTLE, BARTENDER?
NOTHING I'D CARE TO TELL YOU, STRANGER! ASK THAT BAR FLY OVER THERE... HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN HITTING THE BOTTLE HARD!
ER-MIND IF I JOIN YOU, SIR? MY NAME IS DORNER!

DORNER? ..CASTLE? ARRGH-HH!
MONSTER! MONSTER!!
KEEP AWAY!
TAKE IT EASY! I'M YOUR FRIEND! COME BACK! HEY!

NEXT EVENING PAUL WAS EAGER TO BE OFF, BUT IN THE SILENCE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE DRUNK'S TERROR STILL WITH HIM, HE BEGAN TO FEEL HIS CONFIDENCE OOZE AWAY!
IF HE HAD KNOWN WHAT HORRORS WERE BEING HATCHED BY THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL IN THE CASTLE HE WOULD'VE TURNED BACK!
YOUNG DORNER IS ON HIS WAY, PROFESSOR! WE GOTTA GET RID OF HIM!
DON'T WORRY! A SHOT OF THIS SERUM INTO OUR LITTLE FRIEND HERE WILL DECIDE WHO OWNS THE CASTLE!
PROF. VARIG ASSISTANT TO PAUL'S UNCLE WITHDREW THE NEEDLE AND THEN WATCHED IT GROW INTO A FRIENZIED HULK OF A MONSTER, THEN VARIG SET IT ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN TO MEET PAUL DORNER!
GOOD LORD! WHAT KIND OF THING IS IT?
PAUL FROZE IN HIS TRACKS AS THE LOATHSOME HULK BLOCKED HIS PATH AND REACHED FOR HIM!

TERROR FORCED HIS HAND TO RIP AN AUTOMATIC FROM ITS HOLSTER AND AS THE GUN SPAT OUT A STACCATO OF LEAD, HIDEOUS SCREAMS ROARED THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAINSIDE...
SUDDENLY, A SWISH OF AIR AND...
RIP!
GR
R-RAWH!
YARWRRK!
MY ARM! MY ARM!
THE SIGHT OF HIS ARM AND THE WOUNDED MONSTER STUNNED PAUL'S BRAIN! HE STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET... THE PAIN MINIMIZED BY A STATE OF SHOCK!

...AND STUMBLED DAZEDLY INTO DORNER CASTLE AS UNSEEN EYES WATCHED CLOSELY EVERY STEP HE MADE IN THE EERIE CORRIDORS!

HE GOT PAST THE MONSTER! I'LL FIX HIM FOR YOU NOW, PROFESSOR!
VERY WELL... BUT DON'T MESS HIM UP... I WANT A GOOD SPECIMEN!

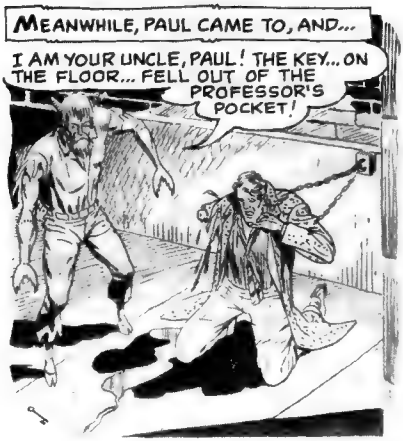
CRACK

HOURS LATER, THE ACRID ODOR OF DISINFECTANTS AND A THROBBING ARM AWAKENED PAUL DORNER INTO A SCENE OF INDESCRIBABLE HORROR ...

...ONLY TO LEARN HIS FATE AS PRESCRIBED BY PROFESSOR VARIG!
PAUL, IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'RE STILL USEFUL TO SCIENCE! DID YOUR UNCLE EVER TELL YOU ABOUT OUR HOBBY OF VIVISECTION? NO?... NEVER MIND!
- WE ONLY NEED YOUR LEFT ARM!

BY THE WAY, YOUR UNCLE'S WILL GAVE US MORE MATERIAL TO WORK ON THAN WE BARGAINED FOR... FIRST HIM AND NOW... YOU!

PAUL IN HIS DAZED CONDITION DID NOT UNDERSTAND... BUT WHEN THE PROFESSOR TOLD HIS ASSISTANT TO BRING PAUL'S UNCLE...THE HORRIBLE TRUTH BEGAN TO DAWN ON HIM!
MEET YOUR NEPHEW, DORNER! HE HAS COME TO HELP US!
Y-YOU COULDN'T HAVE SOB Y-YOU... MADMEN!
THAT'S NOT MY UNCLE! HE'S DEAD! --DEAD!
PAUL'S MIND WANDERED... THE LOSS OF BLOOD FROM HIS WOUND FORCED HIM INTO A WELCOMED BLACKOUT WHEN SUDDENLY THE LAB WAS FILLED WITH SHRILL SCREAMS!
SCREECH! WARGHHH
W-WHAT IS IT?
THAT FOOL! HE MUST HAVE ONLY WOUNDED THE MONSTER! AND THE SERUM IS STILL WORKING!
RUN! RUN!
THE MONSTER, THIRSTING FOR REVENGE FOR THE WOUNDS IT HAD SUFFERED LASHES OUT AT PROF. VARIG AND HIS ASSISTANT!
MY LEG!
AKKKGHH!


MEANWHILE, PAUL CAME TO, AND...
I AM YOUR UNCLE, PAUL! THE KEY... ON THE FLOOR... FELL OUT OF THE PROFESSOR'S POCKET!

UNCLE! LOOK OUT...THE MONSTER IS HEADED FOR YOU!

THE GRUESOME SAVAGERY OF THE MONSTER ATTACKING HIS UNCLE AND THE FIENDISH HOWLS OF THE OTHER BATTLING MONSTERS AS THEY BROKE FROM THEIR CAGES IN THE DARK RECESSES OF THE EVIL CASTLE...

...DROVE PAUL SCREAMING INTO THE DARKNESS... AND... INSANITY!

BUT THE LOSS OF BLOOD WAS TOO MUCH FOR PAUL! THE TOWNSFOLK FOUND HIM ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN---DEAD!
the END

DREAMS OF WEALTH AND SUCCESS TURN INTO A FIENDISH BLOODY NIGHTMARE FOR NIGHT CLUB OWNER, PHIL HART WHEN HE MEETS THE....

EVIL CAT

PHIL'S SPOT

ANOTHER NIGHT IN THIS DUMP! I DIDN'T MAKE ENOUGH FOR THE LIGHTS! I'M LICKED! MY LAST CENT WENT INTO THIS DEAL!

MEOWRR

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A JAM TOO, KITTY! I'LL TAKE YOU HOME AND GIVE YOU SOME MILK!

IF I COULD HIRE A HEADLINE ACT LIKE THIS DANCER, GATA, THE CAT GIRL....BUT HER FEE! GUESS I'LL HIT THE HAY!

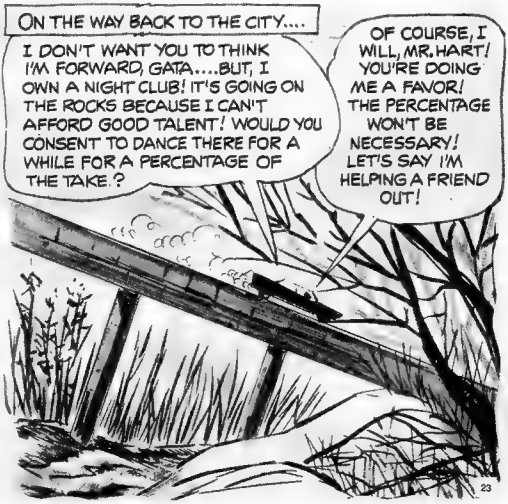
THE NEXT MORNING....
YEAH---THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE COUNTRY THAT....HEY! COME BACK HERE!

I OUGHT TO HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED WORRYING ABOUT A CAT! A CRAZY ANIMAL--JUMPING OUT OF THE CAR THAT WAY! HERE, PUSS, PUSS, PUSS....

NO USE LOOKING FOR THE CAT! MAYBE SHE'S GOOD RIDDANCE!
HUH??

SAAY! YOU'RE GATA, THE DANCER! HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET HERE? AH--ER--I'M PHIL HART!
I SAW YOUR CAT RUNNING INTO THE WOODS! I'M AFRAID SHE WON'T COME BACK!

I FREQUENTLY WANDER OFF BY MYSELF! IF YOU'RE GOING BACK TOWARD THE CITY, MR. HART....I'D PREFER RIDING IN YOUR CAR THAN IN THE BUS!
WHY...WHY, SURE! YEAH---IT'S A PLEASURE!


ON THE WAY BACK TO THE CITY....
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M FORWARD, GATA....BUT, I OWN A NIGHT CLUB! IT'S GOING ON THE ROCKS BECAUSE I CAN'T AFFORD GOOD TALENT! WOULD YOU CONSENT TO DANCE THERE FOR A WHILE FOR A PERCENTAGE OF THE TAKE?
OF COURSE, I WILL, MR. HART! YOU'RE DOING ME A FAVOR! THE PERCENTAGE WON'T BE NECESSARY! LET'S SAY I'M HELPING A FRIEND OUT!

WEEKS LATER, GATA'S SENSATIONAL DANCING IS A TREMENDOUS DRAWING CARD, THE CLUB IS PACKED EVERY NIGHT...
SHE'S TERRIFIC, BOSS! I NEVER SAW SUCH AUDIENCE RESPONSE TO ANY ACT....
NO WONDER SHE'S BEEN NAMED THE CAT GIRL.... SHE'S EVEN MORE GRACEFUL THAN A CAT!
I'VE HEARD FUNNY STORIES ABOUT HER! LIKE SHE EATS VERY LITTLE BUT HAS A SAUCER OF MILK IN HER DRESSING ROOM--AND NO CAT!
UH...MAYBE SHE KEEPS IT FOR AN ALLEY CAT, AL!
GATA, IT'S PHIL! MAY I SEE YOU?
MEEEEEYOWRRRRR
GATA? THE CAT! WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME, PHIL?
HOW DID YOU GET HERE? I SAW YOU GO INTO YOUR DRESSING ROOM..AND THAT CAT....
IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS, PHIL...FAR BETTER! BUT YOU MUST KNOW THIS....
I LOVE YOU! I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU!
GATA.... I....

REMEMBER, PHIL.... I LOVE YOU!
GATA...YOU...YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...
GATA, LISTEN....
THERE'S NOTHING TO TELL, PHIL! I HAVE DECIDED! GOOD NIGHT!
OH WHAT A MESS! HOW AM I GOING TO TELL HER ABOUT WENDY?
LATER, PHIL CALLS ON WENDY BLAKE, HIS FIANCEE....
...AND THAT'S THE STORY, HONEY! BELIEVE ME...I'VE GIVEN HER NO ENCOURAGEMENT!
I SEE, PHIL....THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... YOU'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HER!
I HATE TO DO IT, DARLING, BUT IT'LL GET UNPLEASANT IF I DON'T END IT RIGHT NOW!
OF COURSE, IN THREE WEEKS WE'LL BE MARRIED...THEN, WHEN I KNOW YOU'RE ALL MINE I WON'T BE JEALOUS OF GATA!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JEALOUS OF ANYONE! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU, WENDY!
I KNOW, PHIL... I KNOW....

MOUTHING A SAVAGE GROWL, GATA SPRINGS AT PHIL, WHO LASHES OUT TO PROTECT HIMSELF!

WITH A DULL TERRIFYING THUD, GADA'S HEAD HITS A CORNER OF THE DRESSER AS SHE FALLS BACKWARD....

THE GIRL MOANS, TWITCHES, THEN LIES STILL AS THE DEATH RATTLE DIES IN HER THROAT....

LATER, PHIL DISPOSES OF THE BODY....

THE NEXT DAY...
WHAT A MESS...THEY'RE REPAIRING THE BASEMENT STAIRS! YOU'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH A RACKET ALL DAY! PHIL, DID YOU TALK TO GATA!
YES, WENDY! SHE'S GONE!

MEEOWWRRR...
WHAT'S THAT?
ONLY A CAT! SHE STRAYED IN THIS MORNING AND I FED HER!

IT'S THE SAME CAT! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
PHIL! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

TAKE HER AWAY FROM ME!
MEOWWR!

MUST GET AWAY! GATA! STOP TORTURING ME! LET ME ALONE! I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU!
NO, PHIL! NOT THE BASEMENT! THE STAIRS ARE OUT!

AAAYEEE

THE SHARP DROP BREAKS PHIL'S NECK... AND AS HE LIES SPRAWLED IN DEATH, THE SPECTRAL FIGURE OF GATA APPEARS....
I WARNED YOU, PHIL! I TOLD YOU NO ONE BUT I WOULD HAVE YOU! NOW WE ARE TOGETHER--- IN DEATH!

ONLY WENDY'S HORRIFIED SCREAM BREAKS THE PALL OF SILENCE AND THE WILD SHRIEK DOES NOT RUFFLE THE CAT CALMLY LICKING ITS FUR....
The End

JAVITT RODMAN HAD A MACABRE HOBBY... HE COLLECTED TOMBSTONES. BUT HE LITTLE SUSPECTED THAT ONE DAY, HE HIMSELF MIGHT BE COLLECTED BY THAT GRIM, TERRIFYING COLLECTOR FROM BEYOND WHO HAUNTS THE FINAL RESTING PLACES OF MOULDERING BONES.

TOMBSTONE FOR A GHOUL

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T BURY ME YET! I'M NOT LIKE YOU VILE CREATURES--I'M STILL ALIVE!

Reynoso

SOME PEOPLE ARE CONTENT TO HUNT FOR HUMOROUS EPITAPHS ON TOMBSTONES AND JOT THEM DOWN, BUT JAVITT RODMAN CARRIED THAT GRUESOME PASTIME, ONE STEP FURTHER...

NO ONE'S AROUND THIS OLD, DESERTED CEMETERY AND THIS CARVED TOMBSTONE IS ONE OF THE MISSING ITEMS FROM MY COLLECTION--I HAVE NO TOMBSTONE WITH AN INSCRIPTION ABOUT A WIFE MURDERER!

THERE! IT'S MINE! MAY THE KILLER'S CORPSE REST IN PEACE... BUT HIS GRAVESTONE RESTS IN MY HOUSE FROM NOW ON!

RETURNING TO HIS HOUSE, JAVITT RODMAN UNLOCKS HIS BACK ROOM AND GAZES AT HIS COLLECTION...
UNRIVALED! UNMATCHED! NO ONE CAN BOAST A ROOMFUL OF TOMBSTONES LIKE MINE!--AND WHAT PLEASANT READING FOR A STORMY NIGHT! BUT THE BEST PART OF MY HOBBY IS THAT THE DEAD CAN'T PROTEST!
A FEW DAYS LATER, AS RODMAN DRIVES DOWN A SEEMINGLY UNUSED BACK ROAD...
THAT'S STRANGE! WHAT AN ODD PLACE FOR SUCH A MAGNIFICENT MAUSOLEUM!
THERE'S A TOMBSTONE BY THE SIDE OF THE MAUSOLEUM AND IT LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE A PRIZE ITEM FOR MY COLLECTION!
RODMAN
JAVITT RODMAN
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YOU?
HOW I KNOW YOUR NAME OR WHAT I AM MATTERS NOT! BUT HEED MY WARNING--- NEVER ENTER HERE!
BUT THE STRANGE WARNING ONLY SERVES TO EXCITE JAVITT RODMAN'S MORBID CURIOUSITY, AND THAT NIGHT, AS A PALE MOON SILVERS THE SILENT BURIAL TOMB...
THE CARETAKER'S GONE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO READ THE INSCRIPTION ON THAT TABLET AND IF IT'S WORTHWHILE TO TAKE IT WITH ME!
IT'S M-MY NAME! MY BIRTHDATE! BUT WHOM DID I MEET HERE?
JAVITT RODMAN BORN APRIL 2, 1920
29

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT MY NAME SHOULD BE ON THAT TABLET... WHATEVER SECRET THERE IS TO THIS LURID PLACE MUST BE INSIDE THE MAUSOLEUM! MAYBE I CAN BREAK THE LOCK!

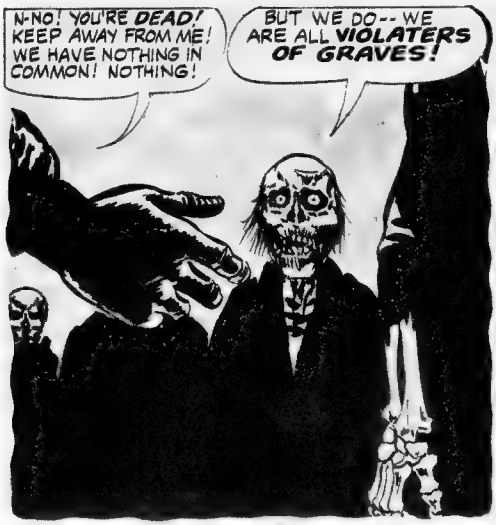
WITH GRIM DETERMINATION, HE TWISTS THE METAL RAKE, AND SUDDENLY...
THERE! IT'S BROKEN! NOW TO SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THESE DOORS!

WITH A MENACING SCREECH, THE HEAVY MARBLE DOORS ARE PULLED OPEN, AND A DARK, SHADOWY FORM FLUTTERS BY...
A BAT! BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT'S THE ONLY LIVING THING IN THIS SILENT TOMB!

FIVE COFFINS, BUT ONE IS OPEN AND EMPTY!

And SUDDENLY, BEHIND THE INTRUDER, A GREEN, MOULDERING HAND OF PUTRESCENT FLESH PUSHES BACK A COFFIN COVER...

WELCOME, JAVITT RODMAN! WE HAVE LONG BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
YES, AFTER ALL, YOU ARE ONE OF US!


N-NO! YOU'RE DEAD! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! NOTHING!
BUT WE DO-- WE ARE ALL VIOLATERS OF GRAVES!

WE UNBURIED THE DEAD WHILE WE WERE THE LIVING AND STOLE WHAT WE WANTED! YOU HAVE ROBBED THE DEAD OF THEIR ONLY IDENTITY AFTER DEATH--THEIR TOMBSTONES!
NO! NO!
AND TONIGHT, YOU HAVE OPENED THE DOOR FOR US! THERE IS A GRAVEYARD NEAR-- COME! THERE IS GHOULISH WORK TO BE DONE!

BUT THE CLAMMY ROTTING HANDS OF THE LIVING DEAD TIGHTEN AROUND JAVITT RODMAN, AND HE IS FORCED ALONG TO A NEARBY CEMETERY...
HERE, JAVITT...TROPHIES FOR ALL OF US! YOU MAY HAVE YOUR PICK OF THE TOMBSTONES!
--WHILE WE LOOT THE GRAVES!

AND AS JAVITT RODMAN STARES IN HORROR, THE FANTASTIC CREATURES HE RELEASED, BEGIN THEIR SORDID WORK...
AH! THE LIVING ARE SENTIMENTAL FOOLS! THEY ALWAYS BURY THEIR DEAD WITH RINGS ON-- GOLDEN RINGS!

AND BY ANOTHER UNEARTHED COFFIN, A PAIR OF SNIPPING SCISSORS BEGIN THEIR LOATHFUL TASK...
HAIR...I ALWAYS GET A GOOD PRICE FROM THE WIGMAKERS FOR THESE STOLEN LOCKS!

AND WITH AN EERIE, CREAKING SOUND A THIRD COFFIN IS PRIED OPEN...
COSTLY WINDING SHEETS ALWAYS BROUGHT A HIGH SUM AND THE DEAD ARE NEVER COLD...WE KNOW! AND SO SHALL YOU!
NO! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! I WON'T STAY WITH YOU!

BUT STRUGGLE IS USELESS, AND RODMAN IS DRAGGED BACK INTO THE MAUSOLEUM...
LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
COME BACK TO THE COFFIN WITH US! ONE IS EMPTY... WAITING FOR YOU! EACH NIGHT YOU CAN JOIN OUR GHOULISH RAIDS!

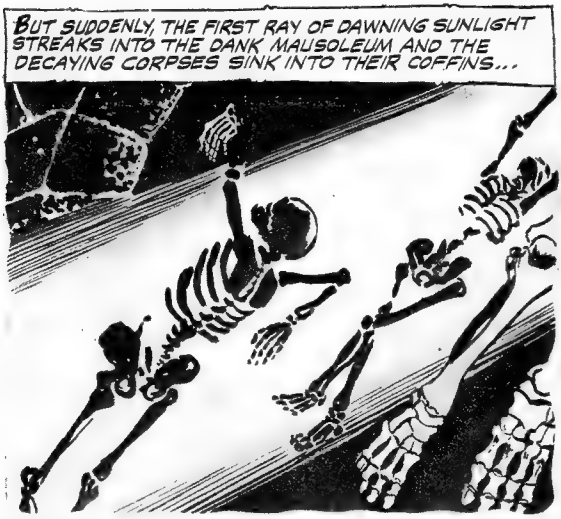
IN WILD DESPERATION, JANITT RODMAN TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF, BUT HE IS HELD IN A DEATH GRIP...
WHY STRUGGLE? YOU ARE LIKE US! JOIN US!
WHERE'S THE CARETAKER? IF HE'D ONLY COME... HE'D HELP ME NOW!

THE "CARETAKER" WOULD HELP HIM! FOOL! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
HE IS YOUR ENEMY AND OUR ENEMY! WE ALL HAVE VIOLATED HIS KINGDOM!

NO! STOP! I'M NOT DEAD LIKE YOU! I WANT TO LIVE!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HERE! WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS! JOIN US! THIS COFFIN IS YOURS!

NO! IN THE NAME OF MERCY! --STOP!
WE HAVE SHOWN NO MERCY TO THE DEAD! WHY SHOULD WE SHOW IT TO THE LIVING?

And AS THE TERRIFIED GRAVE-THIEF IS SHOVED DOWN INTO THE COLD, STONE COFFIN, THE HEAVY LID IS PRESSED RELENTLESSLY DOWN...
CAN'T PUSH IT OFF... THERE'LL BE NO AIR IN HERE--- I'LL SUFFOCATE!


BUT SUDDENLY, THE FIRST RAY OF DAWNING SUNLIGHT STREAKS INTO THE DANK MAUSOLEUM AND THE DECAYING CORPSES SINK INTO THEIR COFFINS...

JAVITT RODMAN PUSHES UP THE STONE LID! SUDDENLY, IT GIVES...
I'M FREE! THEY'RE GONE--BACK INTO THEIR COFFINS! THE NIGHTMARE HAS ENDED!

BUT ONCE OUTSIDE, JAVITT RODMAN SEES THE SINISTER APPROACH OF THE CARETAKER...
NO ONE WILL KEEP ME HERE NOW! I'LL SMASH MY WAY OUT WITH THIS RAKE! NO DECREPIT CARETAKER CAN STOP ME!
WAIT, JAVITT RODMAN! DESPITE MY WARNING YOU CAME! NOW YOU SHALL STAY!

WITH VICIOUS FORCE, JAVITT SLASHES AGAIN AND AGAIN AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE...
I--I CAN'T HARM HIM!... THE RAKE GOES RIGHT THROUGH HIM!
CRACK!

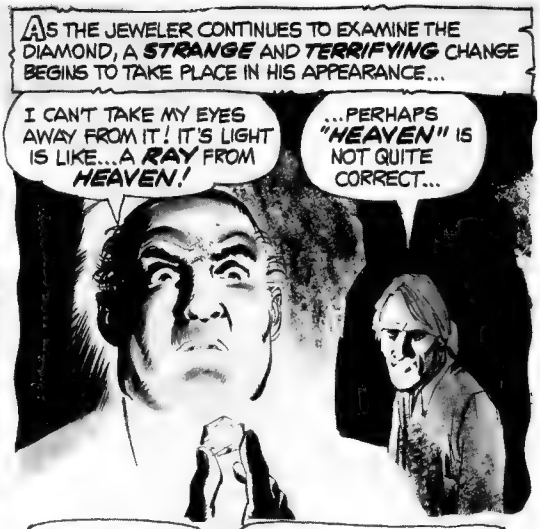
And SUDDENLY THE CARETAKER'S HAND MAKES A SWEEPING MOTION, AS JAVITT RODMAN SINKS TO THE GROUND...
YOU HAVE VIOLATED MY REALM TOO MANY TIMES! THIS TOMBSTONE YOU SHALL NOT STEAL!

AND ON THE GRAVEN TABLET THE CARETAKER'S BONY HAND WRITES THE LAST WORD OF THE FINAL EPITAPH...
JAVITT RODMAN
BORN
APRIL 2, 1930
WHO MET HERE
DEATH
THE END

HAHAHAHAHA
THE DIAMOND IS MINE!
MINE! MINE!
MACAGNO
SATAN'S STONE!
OF ALL THE SINS OF MAN, NONE CORRODES THE SOUL LIKE GREED... FOR ONLY GREED GROWS INTO A NUMBING HORROR...

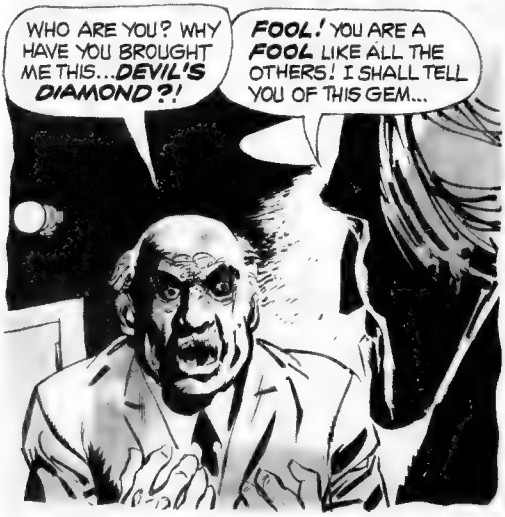
ON A STICKY SUMMER EVENING, A REPULSIVE WOMAN STANDS BEFORE JEWELER FELIX SCHILLER....
WHAT IS IT, OLD WOMAN?
YOU SHALL BE MORE FRIENDLY WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE BROUGHT!
BEHOLD! A DIAMOND! A GLITTERING, PERFECT BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND!
LET ME SEE IT! HOW IT SPARKLES!

YES! IT IS PERFECT! PERFECT! WHAT A MARVELOUS GEM!
IT IS A GEM OF... UNTOLD WONDERS!


AS THE JEWELER CONTINUES TO EXAMINE THE DIAMOND, A STRANGE AND TERRIFYING CHANGE BEGINS TO TAKE PLACE IN HIS APPEARANCE...
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES AWAY FROM IT! IT'S LIGHT IS LIKE...A RAY FROM HEAVEN!
...PERHAPS "HEAVEN" IS NOT QUITE CORRECT...

WHAT IS YOUR PRICE, OLD WOMAN? I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING!
YOU HAVE PAID FOR IT ALREADY!

WHAT DO YOU M.... YAHHH-H-H!
THERE! YOU CAN SEE THAT YOU OWE ME NOTHING! I COULD NEVER SELL MY PRECIOUS DIAMOND TO...ANYONE!


WHO ARE YOU? WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME THIS...DEVIL'S DIAMOND?!
FOOL! YOU ARE A FOOL LIKE ALL THE OTHERS! I SHALL TELL YOU OF THIS GEM...

THIS DIAMOND IS OF RARE ORIENTAL ORIGIN... ITS RAYS DESTROY THOSE CAUGHT IN THE GREED OF POSSESSION!

SUDDENLY, THE JEWELER TURNS ON HER...
SO BE IT! IF I AM TO BE DESTROYED, THEN SO SHALL YOU!! DIE!!
AAA-
GGHH!
AH, MY BEAUTY! SHINE ONLY FOR ME! AND WHEN YOU SHINE ON, OTHERS, EAT AT THEIR FLESH AS YOU HAVE MINE!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
I AM MOST INTERESTED IN VERY RARE GEMS!
THE YOU SHALL SEE THE FINEST!
AHHH! WHAT A SUPERB DIAMOND! EVERY PART IS.... PERFECT!
I AM AFRAID THE PRICE IS MUCH LARGER THAN YOU THINK...IN FACT...
GAZE UPON THE COST IT HAS EXACTED FROM YOU! IS IT WORTH IT??
MY FACE!! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY FACE?
HORRIFIED AND UNBELIEVING, THE MERCHANT FLEES LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED!
HA! HA! HA! HA!

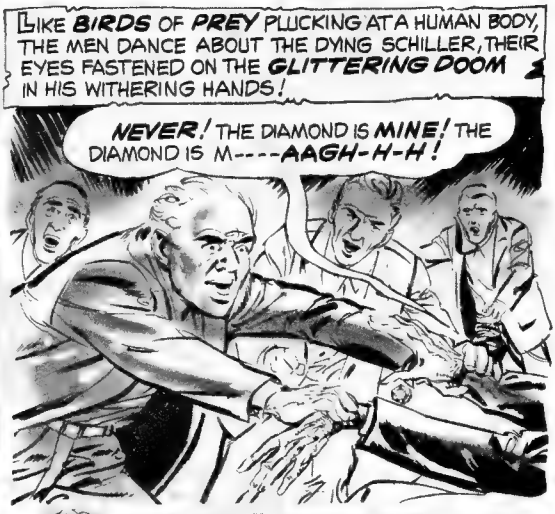
AS THE DAYS PASS, THE JEWELER, BRINGS MORE AND MORE VICTIMS INTO HIS TERRIBLE BROTHERHOOD OF GREED!...
UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL! AND YET IT FEELS SO STRANGE...ALMOST AS IF IT WERE ALIVE!...
...DISGUST FOR SUCH AS YOU...AND I!! BEHOLD!!
WH...ARGH-H-H
WITH MANIACAL PERSISTENCE, SCHILLER WREAKS THE CORRODING POWER OF THE DIAMOND UPON ALL WHO WISH TO GAZE UPON IT...
AND THEN ONE EVENING...
YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, OLD WOMAN! YOU HAVE GIVEN ME YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMAN HEART! GREED RULES THE WORLD!
...MY HANDS!! THEY'VE WITHERED AWAY INTO HIDEOUS CLAWS! I DIDN'T NOTICE!
AND MY BODY TOO! IT'S BEGINNING TO DISINTEGRATE LIKE MY FACE...

BUT IF MY BODY CRUMBLES, THEN I SHALL LOSE THE DIAMOND! WHEN I AM A SKELETON--THEY WILL COME FOR IT!!

HORRIFIED BY THE THOUGHT OF THE CREEPING DEATH, THE JEWELER SITS, CLUTCHING THE DEVIL'S DIAMOND!
I--CAN'T--MOVE!--I CAN ONLY SIT HERE--BUT I'LL NEVER GIVE IT UP! NEVER!

THEN ONE NIGHT, THE GREEDY VICTIMS OF THE DIAMOND SUDDENLY APPEAR!
THERE HE IS! HOW HE SMILES TO THINK THE DIAMOND IS HIS! WE SHALL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH TONIGHT!

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME NOW? I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU!!
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES YOU SHALL BECOME A FETID CORPSE--AND THEN THE DIAMOND WILL BE YOURS NO LONGER!!


LIKE BIRDS OF PREY PLUCKING AT A HUMAN BODY, THE MEN DANCE ABOUT THE DYING SCHILLER, THEIR EYES FASTENED ON THE GLITTERING DOOM IN HIS WITHERING HANDS!
NEVER! THE DIAMOND IS MINE! THE DIAMOND IS M----AAGH-H-H!

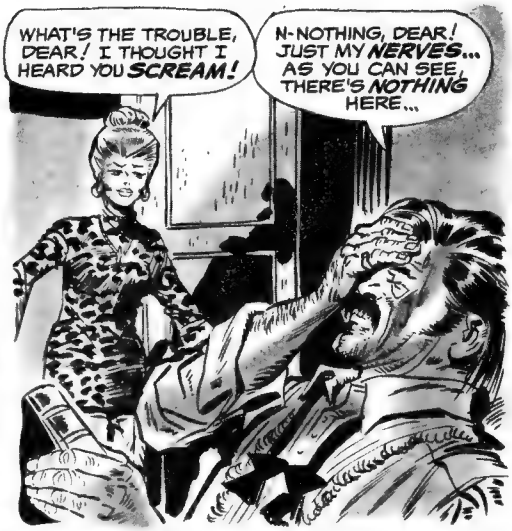
NOBODY ELSE SHALL HAVE IT! IT BELONGS TO ME!
NO!! IT'S MINE!

AND THEN AN UNHOLY BATTLE BEGINS... AS THE DESPERATE AND DYING CREATURES USE ALL THEIR WANING STRENGTH IN A MAD DESIRE FOR THE DIAMOND!..
MINE!
MINE!
I'VE GOT IT!
AT LAST!! I HAVE IT! NOBODY SHALL EVER TAKE IT FROM ME! NOBODY!!
JEWELER
BUT AS THE DEALER IN DIAMONDS SHOUTS HIS TRIUMPH, HIS DOOM SWIFTLY DESCENDS TO DEVOUR HIS BODY...
A... HUMAN SKELETON!! BUT HOW DID IT EVER...??
A SHORT WHILE LATER...
OH, BERNARD! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
HARRIET! L--LOOK!! A DIAMOND! SOMEONE MUST HAVE LOST IT!
WITH THE GREED SHINING IN THEIR EYES LIKE THE UNHOLY LIGHT OF THE DIAMOND, THE YOUNG COUPLE MOVE SLOWLY TOWARDS...
LET'S NOT TELL ANYONE, HARRIET! THE DIAMOND IS OURS!
YES, OF COURSE!! IT'S...OURS!!...
The End

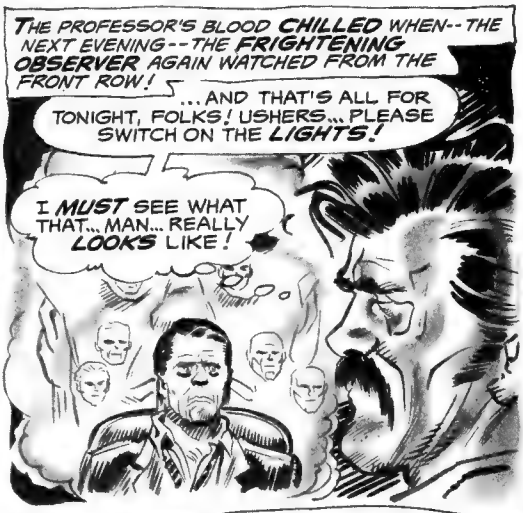
BLACK MAGIC IS **DARK AS NIGHT**... AND **BLOOD** IS BRIGHT AS **TERROR!** RED BLOOD AND SABLE **MURDER** BLENDED **HORRIBLY!**

THE BLOOD CULT

I'M GLAD TO BE HOME FINALLY... THAT WAS A TIRING PERFORMANCE! WHA-! AT THE WINDOW--THOSE EYES AGAIN! NO! NO! GO AWAY!


WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, DEAR! I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU SCREAM!
N-NOTHING, DEAR! JUST MY NERVES... AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S NOTHING HERE...

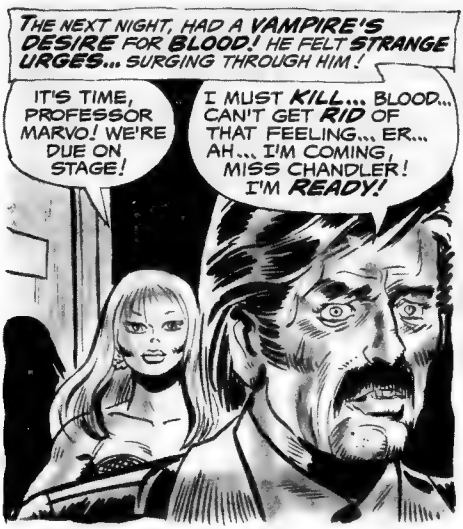
I WISH YOU'D STOP THIS HORRID BLACK MAGIC... YOU'VE BEEN SO STRANGE LATELY
NO! LET ME ALONE!
THE BOOK... SEEMS TO BE CALLING ME...


THE PROFESSOR'S BLOOD CHILLED WHEN--THE NEXT EVENING--THE FRIGHTENING OBSERVER AGAIN WATCHED FROM THE FRONT ROW!
...AND THAT'S ALL FOR TONIGHT, FOLKS! USHERS... PLEASE SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS!
I MUST SEE WHAT THAT... MAN... REALLY LOOKS LIKE!

MISS CHANDLLR! LOOK! THAT SEAT IS EMPTY! THERE WAS NO ONE THERE!
WHY-WHY--I KNOW THAT, PROFESSOR MARVO... IT'S BEEN EMPTY FOR THE LAST FEW NIGHTS! WH-WHAT'S WRONG?

LATER...
I HAVE WAITED LONG FOR YOU... YOU WILL COME WITH ME NOW, MARVO!
I--I COULD HARDLY WALK TO THE DRESSING ROOM... THAT FACE! IF ONLY I... EH! WHA--WHAT! WH-WHO SAID THAT...!

I AM A MESSENGER FROM... ANOTHER PLACE! THE CULT OF EVIL CALLS FOR YOU! YOU WILL COME WITH ME NOW...
YES... YES-SSS... I COME... I CAN'T SEEM TO HELP MYSELF... I AM COMING WITH YOU...
THE CULT MEETS TONIGHT, PROFESSOR! WE ARE ALMOST THERE... AND YOU ARE ALMOST ONE OF US! AH... JUST AHEAD... AND YOU WILL MEET LIVING EVIL!
I COME... I SEE THEM... THEY ARE... MY FRIENDS...
WELCOME, PROFESSOR MARVO... WE HAVE LONG WAITED TO CLAIM YOU AS ONE OF US! YOU WILL DANCE WITH US NOW IN OUR RITES OF DEATH!
I HEAR... O MASTER... I FEEL THAT I MUST BE... ONE OF YOU...
HEE! HEE! HEE! WE HAVE TRAPPED HIS SOUL! SOON WE WILL CLAIM HIS BODY! HE IS LOST... AS IS EVERY MORTAL WHO LOOKS TOO DEEPLY INTO THE SECRETS OF DARKNESS!
BEFORE YOU CAN JOIN US, MARVO... YOU MUST COMMIT THE FINAL ACT! YOU MUST SHED HUMAN BLOOD... AND THEN ALL OUR SECRETS WILL BE YOURS! GO NOW... BACK TO YOUR MORTAL HOME!
AS THE CREATURE OF MIDNIGHT SPOKE, MARVO WAS WHIRLED UP... UP THROUGH UNSPEAKABLE VISIONS...
GO NOW! GO NOW! GO-O-O!


THE NEXT NIGHT, HAD A VAMPIRE'S DESIRE FOR BLOOD! HE FELT STRANGE URGES... SURGING THROUGH HIM!
IT'S TIME, PROFESSOR MARVO! WE'RE DUE ON STAGE!
I MUST KILL... BLOOD... CAN'T GET RID OF THAT FEELING... ER... AH... I'M COMING, MISS CHANDLER! I'M READY!

...THE LAST ACT... IS TO SHOW YOU HOW... A GHOUL DRAWS BLOOD FROM HIS VICTIM!
THIS LOOKS A LITTLE TOO REAL IF YOU ASK ME!
OOOH... I CAN'T LOOK!

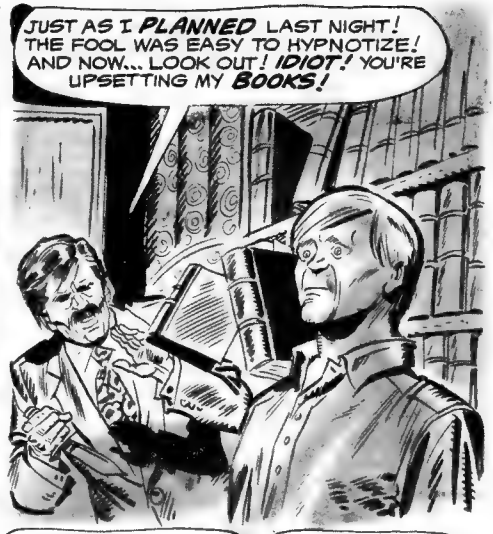
THAT GUY IS WEIRD HE REALLY ACTS LIKE A GHOUL!
PROFESSOR... TH-THAT ACT WASN'T IN THE S-SCRIPT! WH-WHAT'S THE M-MATTER WITH Y-YOU?
NOTHING... COME, MY DEAR... THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST SHOW YOU IN MY DRESSING ROOM!

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SHOW ME, PROF-- AYEEE!! WHAT ARE Y-YOU DOING W-WITH TH-THAT KNIFE...!
I'M SORRY, MY DEAR... BUT I'M AFRAID I... MUST KILL YOU...

YOU-YOU'RE MAD! NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME! DON'T TOUCH ME!
KILL! BLOOD! BLOOD! HEE! HAAAHAA!

EEEEEE! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! EEEEEEE!
COME BACK! COME BACK!

OBESSED AND FRENZIED, MARVO WENT HOME, THIRSTING FOR BLOOD! HE KNEW HIS ASSISTANT WAS TOO TERRIFIED TO TELL ANYONE WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
PLEASE UNLOCK THE DOOR, DEAR... I KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG!
GO AWAY! LET ME ALONE!
TOMORROW NIGHT, I WILL HYPNOTIZE A STAGEHAND AND BRING HIM TO MY DRESSING ROOM... HEH! HEH!


JUST AS I PLANNED LAST NIGHT! THE FOOL WAS EASY TO HYPNOTIZE! AND NOW... LOOK OUT! IDIOT! YOU'RE UPSETTING MY BOOKS!

SOME HEAVY TOMES ON THE BLACK ARTS FELL ON THE VICTIM'S HEAD... SNAPPING HIM OUT OF HIS HYPNOTIC TRANCE OF DEATH!
YOU FOOL! I'LL KILL YOU ANYWAY! ARRRGH!
WHERE AM I... WHA-- YAAAAAA! NO!

I-I MUST GET AWAY... GET THE POLICE! HELP! HELP! HE'S A MADMAN!
TH--THE POLICE! NO! STOP, YOU FOOL!

STOP! STOP!... ARRR! I'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW! I MUST GET HOME... HIDE!
HE-EE-ELP, POLICE!

PUFF... PUFF... YOU MUST HIDE ME FROM THE POLICE, MY DEAR... OR I'LL KILL YOU!
OH! WHY--WHY... YOU'RE JUST S-SICK... DEAR...

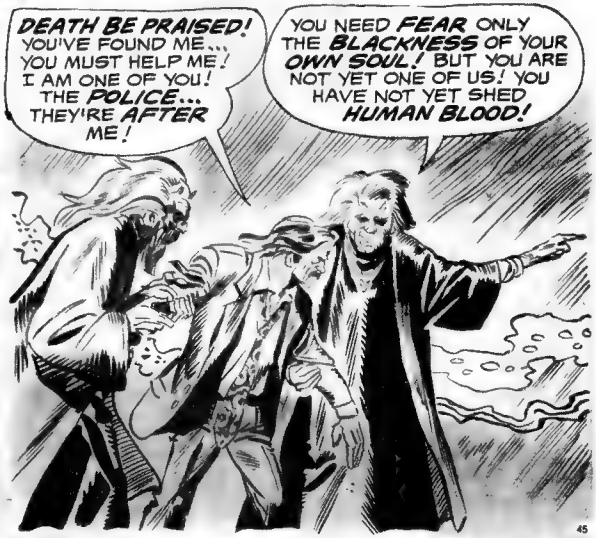
OPEN UP IN THERE! THIS IS THE POLICE! OPEN UP!
SICK AM I? EH? WHAT'S THAT! THE POLICE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THEY'LL NEVER GET ME! HEEEEYYAAGH! I MUST GET TO THE WOODS... FIND THE CULT... THEY'LL HELP ME!

COME AND FOLLOW ME, YOU FOOLS... IF YOU DARE! HEE! HEH!
STOP! STOP, MARVO! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY!

THEY'LL NEVER GET ME!! I'LL SEEK THE FIENDS OF HELL... TOGETHER, WE'LL BATHE THE WORLD IN BLOOD! BLOOD! BLOOD!

PUFF--PUFF-- I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF...UNSEEN THINGS! YES...YES! THEY ARE HERE! ALL AROUND ME...THOSE EYES!

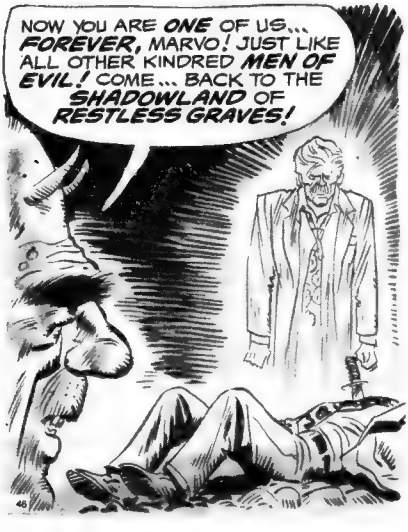

DEATH BE PRAISED! YOU'VE FOUND ME... YOU MUST HELP ME! I AM ONE OF YOU! THE POLICE... THEY'RE AFTER ME!
YOU NEED FEAR ONLY THE BLACKNESS OF YOUR OWN SOUL! BUT YOU ARE NOT YET ONE OF US! YOU HAVE NOT YET SHED HUMAN BLOOD!

O, EVIL ONE... MASTER! MAKE ME ONE OF YOU... I NEED YOUR HELP!
YOU CANNOT COME TO US FOR HELP... YOU HAVE SPILLED NO BLOOD!

SO I HAVE SPILLED NO BLOOD, EH? THEN I'LL KILL ONE OF YOU! ARRGH! TAKE THAT! WH-WHAT!... YOU D-DON'T B-BLEED!
HA! HAA HAA! FOOL! DEAD THINGS DON'T BLEED!

BUT YOU, MARVO... YOU CAN BLEED!
NO! NO! DON'T YEEAARGH!

NOW... YOU HAVE FINALLY COMMITTED THE ACT THAT MAKES YOU OUR BROTHER! ARISE, UNHOLY PHANTOM OF MARVO! ARISE...


NOW YOU ARE ONE OF US... FOREVER, MARVO! JUST LIKE ALL OTHER KINDRED MEN OF EVIL! COME... BACK TO THE SHADOWLAND OF RESTLESS GRAVES!

YOU NEED RUN FROM THE POLICE NO LONGER, MARVO... THEY WILL NEVER GET YOU NOW...
THE END

BURKE WAS A POLICEMAN... AND WE MIGHT ADD, A DARNED GOOD ONE! THE ONLY TROUBLE WITH BURKE WAS HE BELIEVED ONLY HALF OF WHAT HE SAW AND NOTHING HE HEARD... THAT'S WHY THEY CALLED HIM...

the MAN WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE

BURKE WAS A SUBWAY COP... HE ENJOYED HIS TOUR OF DUTY ON THE UNDERGROUND EVEN THOUGH SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS EASY!

THIS IS MAC, A SUBWAY TRACK WALKER AND REPAIR MAN FOR THE SUBWAY OF THE SPRAWLING CITY...
WHAT'S THIS? A HOLE? MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE HEAVY RAINS LAST MONTH!
I'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT! ...WHAT AN ODD TUNNEL... NEVER SAW ONE LIKE THIS BEFORE IN THE SUBWAY... MUST BE AN OLD LINE!
...WAIT 'TILL I TELL MY SUPERVISOR ABOUT THIS! ...SURE IS DARK HERE!
...THEY TOLD ME TO REPORT ALL WALL BREAKS! WELL... I'LL BE... THERE'S A LIGHT UP AHEAD!
...ONLY A GLOW COMING FROM THAT PILE... LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING FROM OUTER SPACE OR A RUSSIAN PLOT OF SOME KIND!
ULP!
I SEE IT... BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

AS MAC MOVES TOWARD THE ENTRANCE, ONE OF THE ANTS BLOCKS IT! MAC'S HEART SKIPS A BEAT AND SINKS TO THE FLOOR...

MAC CREPT FREE OF THE ANT TUNNEL AND RACED BACK TO BURKE AT THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE...

...BUT -- IT'S **TRUE!** I SAW THOSE **GIANT ANTS**, BURKE!

OF ALL THE **CRAZY** TALES! HOW DO YOU THINK OF THEM?

AW, WHAT'S THE USE? AND JUST TO PROVE YOU'RE **NUTS**, I'LL GET HELP AND WE'LL INVESTIGATE!

SO THE THREE MEN HEADED BACK INTO THE TUNNEL, THE OFFICERS WERE WELL ARMED..

HEY, BURKE, WHAT DOES YOUR FRIEND SMOKE? SOUNDS LIKE HE HAS PIPE DREAMS!

GO ON, LAUGH IF YOU WANT TO... BUT THAT TUNNEL IS AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE!

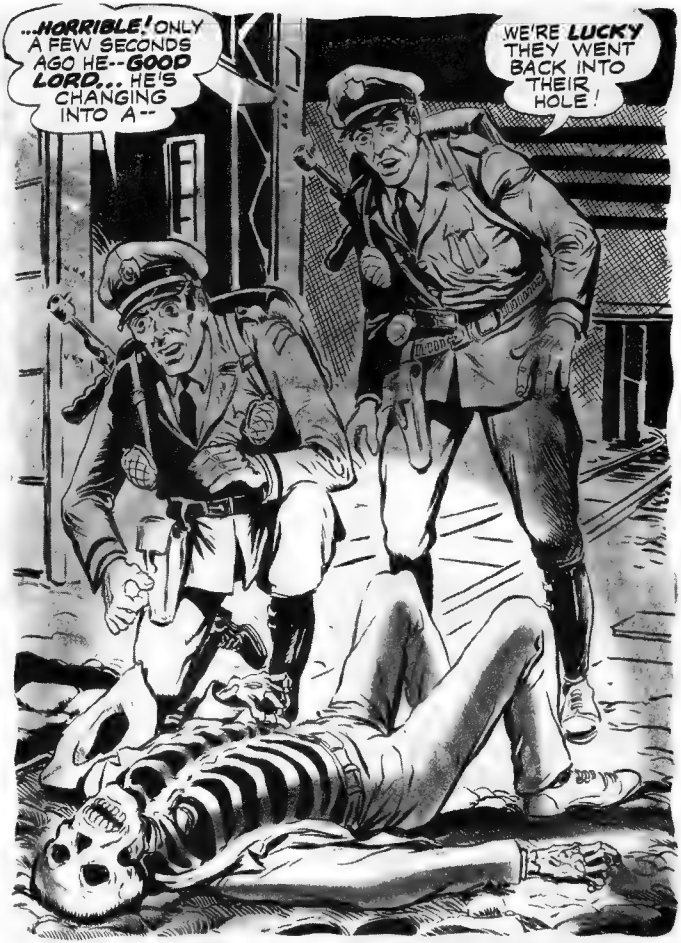
HEY, DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE LITTLE ELVES I ONCE SAW IN IRELAND?

BUT I TELL YOU, THIS ISN'T A **GAG!**

...YEAH... SURE! **MAC!** IN BACK OF YOU! **LOOK OUT!**

THEY GOT HIM! WE'RE TOO LATE!

OH, NO! LOOK--THEY PICKED HIM CLEAN!


...HORRIBLE! ONLY A FEW SECONDS AGO HE--GOOD LORD... HE'S CHANGING INTO A--
WE'RE LUCKY THEY WENT BACK INTO THEIR HOLE!

SUDDENLY!
ARWEEEEEEEEEEE
HEY, I SEE SOMETHING!

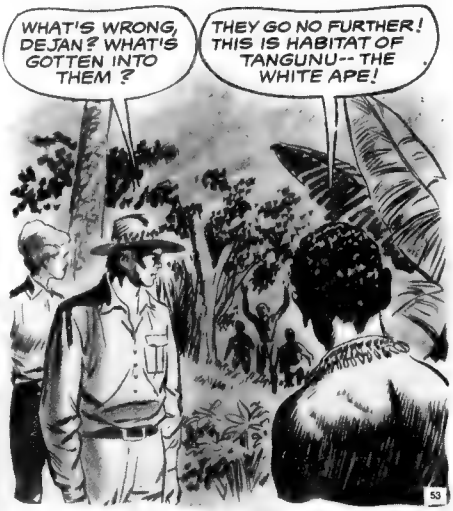
THE GIANT ANTS RUSHED ONTO THE SUBWAY TRACKS AS IF IN A PRE-PLANNED ATTACK!
WHREEEE
BURKE THEY'RE COMING! BURKE WHERE ARE YOU?

HELP!
WHREEE-EE!

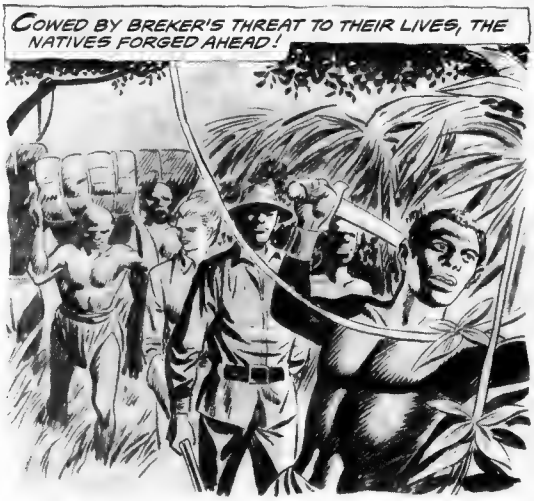
THEY DRAGGED HIM INTO THIS RUBBLE... IT MUST BE AN ANT HILL!
...IT'LL TAKE ME HOURS TO DIG IT OPEN... I'D BETTER USE A HAND GRENADE!
BLAM!
IT WORKED! EASY, FRIEND! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME!
HELP
RAT-TA-TAT TAT!
BETTER CLOSE UP THE HOLE AGAIN!
BLAM!
WHAT IN-- HE'S CHANGING INTO A GIANT ANT!
YEEACK!
NATURALLY NO ONE BELIEVED BURKE'S STORY BUT THEN WHO WOULD? BUT THOSE STRANGE SOUNDS BEHIND THE SUBWAY WALLS ARE STILL THERE... LISTEN...
The End

REAL AND TERRIBLE BEYOND ALL WORDS--DEFYING ALL DESCRIPTION--THIS GHASTLY, GARGANTUAN MONSTER APPEARED FOR HUMAN EYES TO WITNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME!

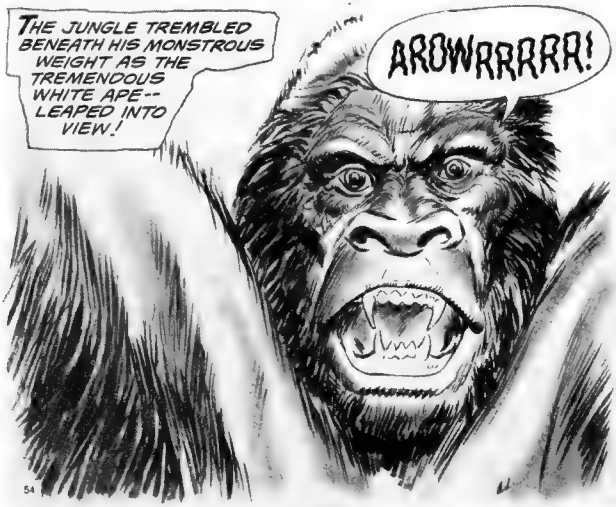
THE BLOODY MONSTER!



A WHITE APE! WHAT A PRIZE TO TAKE BACK TO THE ZOO!
LET'S TURN BACK! WE HAVE THE ANIMALS WE CAME FOR!
NO, WE'RE GOING ON! COME ON, MOVE! MOVE!
--THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, AND ANY OTHERS WHO TRY TO DESERT!


COWED BY BREKER'S THREAT TO THEIR LIVES, THE NATIVES FORGED AHEAD!

--OH! CLAY, LOOK!
TANGUNU!


THE JUNGLE TREMBLED BENEATH HIS MONSTROUS WEIGHT AS THE TREMENDOUS WHITE APE-- LEAPED INTO VIEW!
AROWRRRRR!

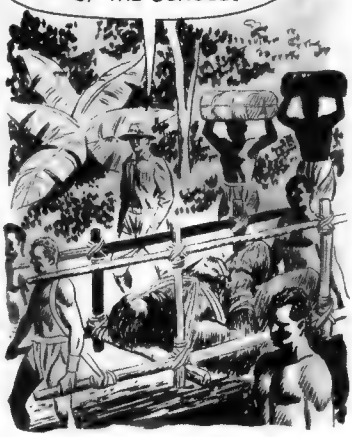
THE WIRE NETS! LET 'EM GO! ON EVERY SIDE!

THE HUGE BEAST LASHED OUT WITH A FURY AT THE STEEL MESH THAT CUT AT HIM LIKE BARE BLADES, AND AT DAWN...

THIS CHLOROFORM WILL DO IT!

HE NO FIGHT NOW... BUT MEN AFRAID TO CARRY HIM!
AFRAID OR NOT--THEY'LL DO AS I SAY!

Aiiiii!
ARGHHH! NO! NO! WE DO AS YOU SAY!


FORWARD NOW! AND NO REST UNTIL WE'RE CLEAR OF THE JUNGLE!

THE INCESSANT CHATTERING OF THE MONKEYS HAS STOPPED!
NEVER MIND THAT--LOOK! WE'VE REACHED THE TOWN!

NOT A SOUL--EVERYTHING DESERTED!
WORD TRAVELS FAST! THEY FEAR TANGUNU!

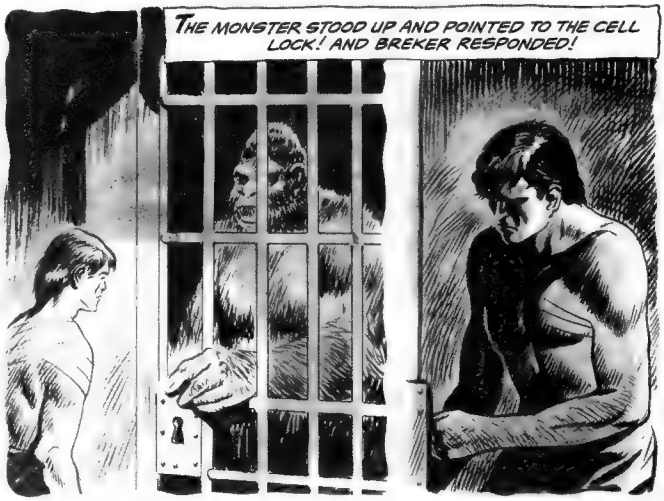
BUT CLAY BREKER WAS DEAF TO ALL PLEAS TO RELEASE THE MONSTER! A CARGO SHIP BOUND FOR THE STATES WAS TEMPTED BY BREKER'S HIGH PASSAGE FEE!

AND ALMOST AT ANY TIME, BREKER WOULD RETURN TO HIS SADISTIC DIVERTISEMENT! BUT ONCE HE STEPPED TO CLOSE!
GARRRRG!
AAHEEH! M-MY SHOULDER!
HE SCREAMED IN AGONY AND PASSED OUT!
DARLING-- A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE IS-- THIS TIME! BUT HE WAS LUCKY!
WE'D BETTER LEAVE HIM ALONE SO HE CAN REST!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME! I-- I FEEL STRANGE!
MY HANDS ARE STIFF-- APPEAR SWOLLEN, AND MY SKIN-- THE TEXTURE IS SO COURSE AND MORE HAIRY!
IS IT SOME DISEASE I'VE CONTRACTED FROM THE BITE OF THE APE?

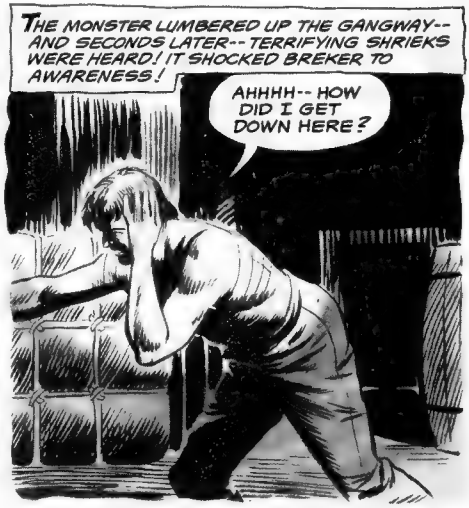
DURING THE NIGHT, HIS WIDE-OPEN FEVERISH EYES ATTESTED TO HIS STRANGE RESTLESSNESS!

I--I'M COMING I'M COMING!

HE DESCENDED THE GANGWAY TO THE CELL--WHERE GLEAMING BEADY EYES DREW HIM LIKE A MAGNET...


THE MONSTER STOOD UP AND POINTED TO THE CELL LOCK! AND BREKER RESPONDED!

GRRROWRRR!


THE MONSTER LUMBERED UP THE GANGWAY--AND SECONDS LATER--TERRIFYING SHRIEKS WERE HEARD! IT SHOCKED BREKER TO AWARENESS!
AHHHH--HOW DID I GET DOWN HERE?

HE SAID NOTHING BUT A STROKE OF FEAR QUAKED THROUGH HIM! PRESENTLY, ENID RAN TO HIM-- BUT THEN, SHE DREW AWAY!

HE REMAINED IN HIS STATE-ROOM, MUTE TO HER PLEAS! HE GLANCED AT HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR!

FEAR DROVE HIM TO SLEEP-- HIS ONLY REFUGE! BUT THAT NIGHT, HE AWAKENED AGAIN-- AND STARTED DOWN THE GANGWAY!

AN UTTERLY, UNWORLDLY TRANSFOR-MATION WAS TAKING PLACE! MINUTES LATER, ENID WAS AWAKENED BY A POUNDING ON THE DOOR!

SAVE ME-- PLEASE! EEEEE!
SHE SCREAMED IN TERROR! HOW COULD SHE KNOW HER FATE WAS IN THE ARMS OF ONE WHOSE EMBRACES SHE HAD KNOWN MANY TIMES!

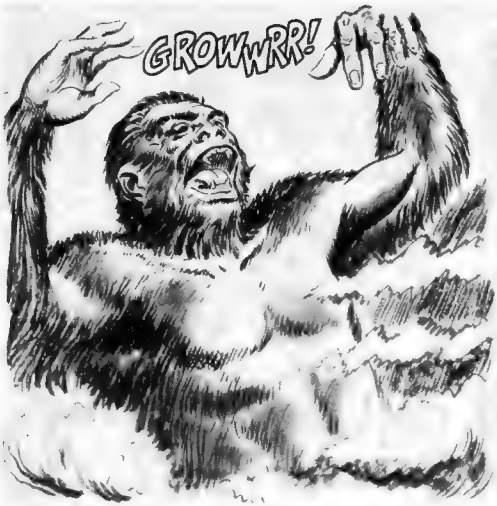
GET HIM, MEN! WATCH THE GIRL!

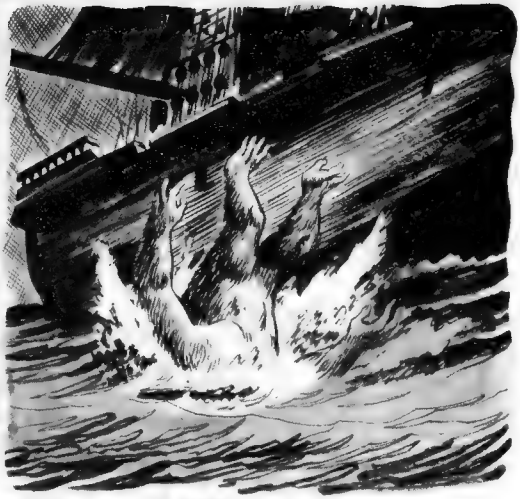
GROWRRR!
OWWWW!

WE'VE GOT TO FORCE HIM TO PUT DOWN THE GIRL!

SHE'S FREE! FIRE THOSE GUNS!

BLAM!
BLAM
BANG!





AND WHEN SHE GAZED INTO HIS EYES-- COLD, THIN SLITS SHE HAD SEEN ONLY IN ANOTHER BEING, ENID HAD A GLIMPSE OF THE SOUL CONTORTING TRUTH! TANGUNU WOULD RETURN TO THE JUNGLE!

The End.

THE SON WAS SHINING... BUT IT WAS MORE THAN MERE SUN! THE WATER WAS BLUE AND TERROR REIGNED ON THE EXCURSION BOAT WHEN THEY SIGHTED...

the THING!

SPRINGTIME AFTERNOONS HAVE FUNNY WAYS! THE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL AT ONE MOMENT, AND SECONDS LATER... RAIN!

WHERE ARE WE, ANGELA? I'VE LOST MY SENSE OF DIRECTION IN THIS DOWNPOUR!

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE PIERS, TOM! I CAN SEE THE WATER!

... IF ONLY I CAN SEE WHERE I'M GOING...

BE CAREFUL, DARLING--ONE SWERVE AND WE'LL TUMBLE OFF THE EDGE!

BUT THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS THE RAIN STARTED, IT STOPPED!
HOW DID WE GET HERE? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
TOM! PERHAPS THOSE PEOPLE ON THE EXCURSION BOAT CAN HELP US!
SUDDENLY THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN...
HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ABOARD! COME WITH US!
THERE'S ROOM FOR TWO MORE!
ANGELA! DON'T LEAVE ME! HEY, THE BOAT'S MOVING!
COME ON--LET'S FIND THE CAPTAIN! MAYBE HE CAN TELL US WHAT SORT OF BOAT THIS IS!
MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO GET OFF!
ABOARD THE SHIP...
...SAY, CAN YOU HELP US? WE...
TOM! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THEY DON'T HEAR US! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I'M FRIGHTENED!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY BOAT! ANGELA... WE'VE STUMBLED ON SOMETHING EVIL AND HORRIBLE!
LOOK HOW THEY'RE STARING AT US...AS IF THEY WANTED TO KILL US!
CAPTAIN, YOU'VE GOT TO PUT US ASHORE! ...WE'RE NOT PASSENGERS ON YOUR EXCURSION BOAT! ALL WE WANTED WAS INFORMATION!
WHY HAVE WE BEEN MADE PRISONERS? WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
SATANA

PRISONERS? NONSENSE! WELCOME TO THE SATANA, MY FRIENDS! I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR EXCURSION!
WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?
YOU ARE ABOARD THE SHIP SATANA-- ON ACHERON, THE RIVER OF HELL! THIS IS THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE DEAD AND THE DAMNED!
WHAT? IT CAN'T BE! IT'S ALL A MISTAKE!
WELL, THEN IT WAS YOUR MISTAKE, AND YOU'D BEST MAKE THE MOST OF IT! SO COME AND WATCH WHAT WE CALL... ENTERTAINMENT!
LEAP AND SHOUT WITH JOY WHILE YOU MAY! THE FIRES WILL SOON HAVE YOU SCREAMING IN ANGUISH!
THIS WAS HORROR UNLIMITED!
BEHOLD MY FAITHFUL SERVANT IN EVIL-- HOW MANY FOOLS HAVE MET HIS SHARP FANGS!
FOLLOW ME! I SHALL TEACH YOU THE SECRETS OF THE WITCHES!
WHO ARE YOU TWO? WHY DO YOU NOT JOIN IN OUR GAIETY?
DON'T TOUCH US! WE ARE NEITHER DEAD NOR DAMNED!

THE PASSENGERS SWARMED TOWARD TOM AND ANGELA, SOME LAUGHING, OTHERS SCREAMING...
HURL THEM OVER THE SIDE! LET THEM FEEL THE RIVER OF THE DEAD!
... IF THEY ARE NOT ONE OF US NOW, THE RIVER SHALL MAKE THEM SO!
YHAAH!
EEEE!
H-HELP!
...AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT, TOM WAS SWEPT UP, CLUTCHED IN THE SEA MONSTER'S TENTACLE!

IN THE FRIGID WATERS THEY FOUGHT FOR AIR, WHEN SUDDENLY...
TOM!! LOOK BEHIND YOU!

YEECH! ANGELA... BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BUT THIS THING IS DEAD! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SUMMONING ALL THEIR STRENGTH THE DUO SWIM THROUGH THE RIVER OF THE DEAD...

TOM! TOM! I-I CAN'T GO ON... MUST REST!
DON'T STOP NOW! ...JUST A FEW MORE YARDS...
ANGELA! LOOK! A PIER! WE MADE IT!
HEY, YOU THERE! GIVE US A HAND! T-THEY DON'T HEAR ME! SOMETHING'S WRONG!
POOR SOULS... DROVE THEIR CAR STRAIGHT OFF THE PIER DURING THE RAINSTORM!
AND SO YOUNG! TOO BAD THEY ENDED UP IN A WATERY GRAVE!
TOM! THAT'S US! WE'RE DEAD! THE PASSENGERS ON THE SATANA... WE BELONG TO THEM! THE EXCURSION WAS FOR US!
THE TRUTH BECAME CLEAR SECONDS LATER WHEN THE EXCURSION BOAT DROPPED ITS GANGPLANK ON THE PIER!
NEXT BOAT LEAVING IMMEDIATELY, MY FRIENDS... WILL YOU JOIN US?
IS THERE A CHOICE?
THE END

WELCOME ONCE MORE TO MY CRYPT OF SUPERSTITION! ...DONT SNICKER!--THESE ARE THE BELIEFS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME!
RING AGAINST EVIL!
BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IF YOU WORE A RUBY RING, IT WOULD PROTECT YOU AGAINST EVIL! ...UH HUH...NOW TELL ME A TRUE STORY!
IN THE WOTJOBALUK TRIBE, IN AUSTRALIA, IT IS BELIEVED, IF A BAT IS KILLED, IT WILL ALSO SHORTEN THE KILLERS LIFE! ...WANT TO GO BAT HUNTING--HMMM?
IF...YOU PICK MARIGOLDS IN A GRAVEYARD, IT WILL DRIVE YOU TO DRINK! AW, GO ON, BE A VAMPIRE--ORDER A BLOODY-MARY!